

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As supporters of the Rohrabacher-Farr-Young-Blumenauer-McClintock-Cohen-Broun-Polis-Amash-Lee-Stockman-Titus Amendment (henceforth, the “Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment”) to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, we respectfully request that the inclusion of the House-passed language be a priority of yours as you negotiate an appropriations bill with your Senate counterparts to fund government operations beyond December 11, 2014.

The Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment, which passed the House on May 29, 2014, by a bipartisan vote of 219-189, was a clear statement from this body that the federal government should no longer prosecute individuals who are acting in compliance with state medical marijuana laws or interfere with states that are attempting to implement their own duly-enacted medical marijuana laws. As you likely know, a majority of our nation’s states (currently 34 and the District of Columbia) have enacted laws that, to varying degrees, allow for the medicinal use of marijuana, and more states—conservative and liberal alike—are expected to follow suit in the coming years.

This wave of change at the state level is the result of changing public attitudes on the subject. A recent Pew Research Center survey found that 61 percent of Republicans and a whopping 76% of Independents favor making medical marijuana legal and available to patients who need it. 80% of Democrats feel the same way. Put simply, the American people do not approve of the status quo.

It is worth also noting that, following the House passage of the Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment, Senators Paul (R-KY) and Booker (D-NJ) filed a companion amendment in the Senate. Unfortunately, the breakdown of the appropriations process in that chamber meant that the amendment did not receive a vote, but we believe it would have received significant support from both sides of the aisle.

We believe that the Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment is a sensible and measured approach. It simply prohibits the Department of Justice, including the DEA, from wasting any taxpayer money undermining medical marijuana laws in those states that have enacted them. Under the amendment, law enforcement would still be able to target organized crime, drug cartels, interstate trafficking, non-medical-marijuana, driving under the influence, cultivation on public

lands, and other crimes that have not been sanctioned by state law. The amendment only prohibits the Justice Department from undermining state medical marijuana laws.

The federal government's antiquated position on this issue must change and this language, supported by a majority of our country's representatives in the House, is an important step toward that change. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and hope you will support our request.

Sincerely,

Don Rahn

Sam Tan

Earl Blumen

Fred Palis

Barbara C. Brown

Steve Cohen

Denny Heck

Justin A.

Thomas Massie

Anna Teta

Chris Collins

Barbara Jee

Mr. H. Wt

Diana DelGatto

Laird Capps

Brian Nemes

Julia Browley

Mike Quigley

Raul M. Grijalva

Jim Langevin

Mark R. Kelly

Scott R. Peters

Jim Sensenbrenner

John L. Gonsky

Jim McDermott

Hank Johnson

Ed Pallant

Beto O'Rourke

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Wendy Roth

Jim Hahn

Michael Honda

Chilled